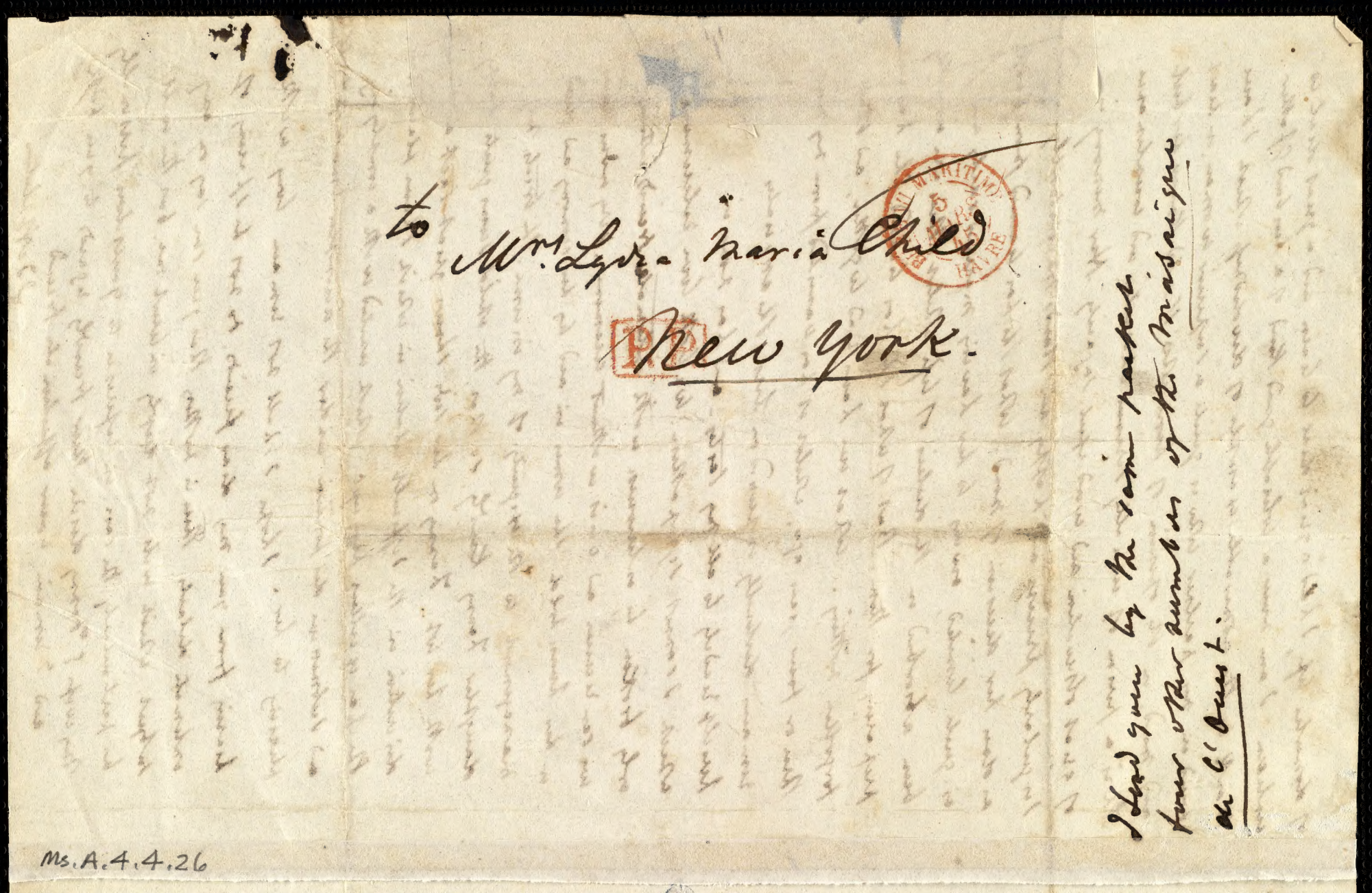
I have a great many to say on these grave subjects on which I confess to take an much interest as I do those at home but knowing that I shall disappoint you if I do not notice my domestic concerns I have the habit to take care of myself as I best may, and proceed to tell you that your little servants here Augusta Ann and Johnny are coming on finely. They are both remarkably pretty, and the boy bids fair to be as intelligent as his sister. and more manageable owing to her having had better health, and consequently having been less indulged. Telem has always been very delicate She walk formed and constituted She is deplorably nervous and wants that serenity of heart and mind which usually belongs to her age. She feels and thinks too much as a woman. we have I fear been over indulgent, unnecessarily weak, and our friends who have been much taken by the child vivacity and beauty have been allowed to caress too much as flowers over the formation of her character which is now difficult to deal with. Johnny will have the benefit of our experience. Fanny who has now finished her education has had a fair share of worldly amusement. Her appearance in society is quite satisfactory. She is modest, graceful and discreet. and we think any thing brilliant about her would be the good will of all. My wife has nursed her boy three or four months too long and feels the effects of her attention devoted resp. She is quite worn down, and coughs alarmingly. To-morrow first of March. the little parasite is to be sent into the country for a week with our maid. and only returns when he is completely weaned. I am to go

and see him daily somewhat of a serious undertaking with my state of health and that of the roads — I shall be called to Havre by my unsettled affairs there in April or May, and hope to be able to do something in furtherance of my never abandoned purpose of returning to America. At all events I see no probability of being in a position to give effect to my wishes before two or three years. and have made my arrangements here accordingly. They will be such as to enable us to offer you a room. Should you come to see us, summer or winter. Knowing that our dear Mrs Child has always cherished the desire of seeing Europe we hope that she will do so. Whilst we are on this side of the Atlantic. We are here out of the way of Americans, and as I have not been in Havre for more than 24 hours for the last three years, I fear that I am losing the yankee dialect with the opportunities of hearing it spoken. Fanny and I speak English when we are by ourselves. She also now speaks French like a French girl. We have begun with Shakespeare who has learned a number of phrases, just enough to form early her pronunciation having in future opportunities to perfect her in her father tongue. The accounts I receive about my brother Charles little family are quite satisfactory. In settling his affairs it was found that he had left enough for their modest support. and this is all that is desirable. The only cloud that has occasioned to be an active one I do not for that consider myself as an encumbrance on the earth. In the limited sphere of action which is now mine I do what I can for self improvement and the good of those who are within reach of my hand or counsel. In the School

of domestic life I had a great deal to learn, and a great deal to unlearn. I am now a tolerable good kind of a husband & father. Thank to the admirable example of devotedness which I have found in my partner who is quite a superior woman, in heart and mind, in the opinion of those who should know her best. She is a person of unusually sincere character and countenance of great observation and wonderful sagacity. Her memory is singularly precise and happy and Hands me constantly in aid. In addition her discussion of mind. What she has learned from books is quite limited, owing to her having married early and been absorbed in the duties of life which She was usually preparing for them. But of what she has learned She has forgotten nothing. What we have read together, and that I read three or four years ago, whilst it has vanished from my mind remains distinctly impressed on hers. She accommodates herself readily to all my tastes - and has none in which I cannot sympathise. We both love retirement only broken by intercourse with intimate friends whom we can receive and visit in without ceremony. She orders Home & her household affairs with and by her economy and good management, to the prosperity of my income. She treats my daughter Fanny kindly, so that the child seems quite happy with her Mother. Fanny on her side shows great tact and discretion in the difficult relation in which She has placed her. She has excellent principles which united with a complying and submissive disposition render the accomplishment of duty pleasing to her. I hope I shall not remain long without hearing from you my dear friends, do not be sparing of unnecessary details. There is nothing that you can say on any subject, which will not deeply interest me. but this will be particularly the case, in reference to yourselves personally. My wife & Fanny desire their friendly regards to you both and I remain yours affectionately & truly

J D Appleton.



to Mrs. Lydia Maria Child
New York.
Ms.A.4.4.26